

Comparison and Contrast Rubric

Total _____ / 60

CATEGORY	15	13	11	9
Idea & Supporting Details	Solid thesis statement. The paper compares and contrasts items clearly. Specific examples to illustrate the comparison. Compelling, relevant evidence from legitimate, credible sources. At least 13-15 citations are incorporated into the paper (no isolated quotes).	Attempts a thesis statement. The paper compares and contrasts items clearly, but supporting information is general. Paper includes some information relevant to the comparison. Ten to 12 citations from legitimate sources (no isolated quotes)	Weak thesis; not consistently clear throughout paper. Attempts to compare/contrast items clearly, but supporting information is incomplete. Most information is not relevant. Six to 9 citations incorporated into the paper (one isolated quote).	No thesis or completely unclear. Compare/contrast analysis is vague. Random ideas. Few sources are legitimate. No research is incorporated into paper supporting information or support is incomplete.
	10	8	7	6
Organization & Structure	Paper breaks the information easily into identifiable categories with clear topic sentences – clearly follows a format. Paragraphs flow smoothly, follows a consistent order when discussing the comparison. Catchy introduction moving from general to specific, and satisfactory conclusion moving from specific to general	The paper attempts to break the information into identifiable categories, but it does not follow a consistent order when discussing the comparison. Format is attempted, but not consistent. Paragraphs usually clearly linked to each other. Intro & conclusion are evident but not solid/effective.	The paper weakly breaks the information into categories, or some information is in the wrong section. Format is weak. Some details are not in a logical or expected order, and this distracts the reader. Intro & conclusion are limited and weak.	Many details are not in a logical or expected order. No identifiable format; confusing and difficult to follow. No categories. There is little sense that the writing is organized. No intro & conclusion.
Grammar & Spelling (Conventions)	Paper is error free. Spelling, punctuation, and grammar are correct. Present tense verbs are used correctly. Third person is used throughout. No contractions.	Paper is generally free of mechanical errors. Most grammar & usage are correct, punctuation is usually accurate, & only minor corrections are needed. Verb tenses are used correctly. Third person is used in the majority of the paper. Few contractions.	Some mechanical errors that do not detract from content. End punctuation & spelling usually correct. Most verbs tenses are used correctly. Switches between first and third person often. Many contractions.	Paper contains mechanical errors that detract from content. Lack of paragraphing
Formatting	Paper is 7-8 pages (Works Cited page is separate), Times New Roman, 12 point, double-spaced. Proper MLA Style: italicize titles; quotations around shorter works, header, heading, in-text citations (with proper punctuation if needed), Works Cited Page	Most of the formatting requirements are addressed; altered font size, spacing; lacks proper header	Some of the formatting requirements are addressed; altered font size, spacing; lacks proper header	No application of formatting guidelines
	5	4	3	2
Voice	Distinctive, compelling, and engaging; speaks knowledgeably; shows writer is truly interested in the subject	Interesting and informative; engages reader most of the time. Emerging natural tone, but there are inconsistencies	Occasionally aware of audience; tries to engage reader. Sincere voice but analysis is not convincing	No concern for audience; lifeless; flat or inappropriate
Word Choice	Powerful and engaging words. Contains articulate exceptional supportive details. Standard formal English is used. Sophisticated vocabulary is used correctly.	Effective and creative verbs; wording mostly correct. Contains clear supportive details. Standard formal English is used. Challenging vocabulary is attempted and mostly used correctly.	Includes trite, ordinary details, familiar words and phrases. Colorful language may be overdone or not the writer's words.	Vocabulary is limited; words used incorrectly and vague. Lacks sufficient supporting details, paper is redundant.
Transitions & Sentence Fluency	The paper moves smoothly from one idea to the next. The paper uses comparison and contrast transition words to show relationships between ideas. The paper uses a variety of sentence structures and transitions. NO run-ons and fragments	The paper moves from one idea to the next. The paper attempts to use comparison and contrast transition words to show relationships between ideas. Sentences begin in different ways. Some variation in length and structure. Few run-ons and fragments	Some transitions work well; but connections between other ideas are fuzzy. Little variety in sentence structure and beginnings. Generally short sentences. Several run-ons and fragments	The transitions between ideas are unclear or nonexistent. Sentences are choppy, rambling, or incomplete. Many run-ons and fragments

TEACHER COMMENTS: